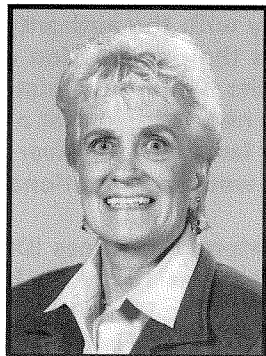


Hammerstrom's

for the people
in the 17th Senate District

Hotline



State Senator
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May 3, 2004



MICHIGAN WEEK MAY 15 THROUGH MAY 21 "Great Lakes, Great Traditions: This is YOUR Michigan!" is the theme for this year's 50th anniversary of Michigan Week. The annual tribute to the Great Lakes State began in 1954 as a way to promote state pride among citizens and to celebrate the rich heritage and unique features that make Michigan special. In 2001, the responsibilities associated with Michigan Week were transferred from the Department of State to the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL). HAL's mission for Michigan Week is to inspire people to embrace, explore, and celebrate the history, resources, and opportunities that set Michigan apart as an ideal state to live, work, and play. For more information about Michigan Week, including special programs such as the youth photo contest and Michigan Author Day, please visit www.michigan.gov/hal, or contact my office, toll-free, at 1-888-477-8238.

DID YOU KNOW? Michigan is the only place in the world with a floating post office. The J.W. Westcott II is the only boat in the world that delivers mail to ships while they are away from land.

WATER-DISCHARGE PERMITS SIGNED INTO LAW The state's freshwater and groundwater resources are further protected by measures recently signed into law that require water-discharge permit holders to pay an annual fee. Senate Bill 252 establishes the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System fund and requires permit holders to pay an application and annual permit fee based on designations from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Senate Bill 560 establishes a fee structure for groundwater discharge. Money collected will be used to fund groundwater monitoring by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

FIRE SAFETY FIRST PACKAGE BECOMES LAW The Fire Safety First Package, a set of four bills requiring the installation of smoke alarms in multiple dwellings and historical buildings, became law on April 21. The first measure, Senate Bill 337, requires a person owning a tenement house, apartment, duplex apartment, or apartment hotel constructed prior to November 6, 1974, to be equipped with a smoke alarm that complies with the state construction code. Senate Bill 742 provides the Bureau of Construction Codes and Fire Safety with the authority to promulgate the new smoke alarm rules for multiple dwellings. Senate Bill 338 mandates the preservation of a historic site to be equipped, at a minimum, with a fire alarm system. Senate Bill 339 permits a municipal historic district commission to withhold a "certificate of appropriateness" to an applicant who has not certified that a fire alarm system or smoke alarm will be installed prior to the project's completion. The new laws aim to lower the number of residential fatalities resulting from dwellings with no smoke alarm or one that was not operational.

MICHIGAN WILDLIFE VIEWING GUIDE NOW ONLINE The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has created an online version of the popular *Michigan Wildlife Viewing Guide*. The guide features 121 of the best places for nature lovers to view Michigan's wildlife. The new website is mirrored after the *Wildlife Viewing* guidebook first published in 1994 in cooperation with Michigan State University. A survey by the U.S. Fisheries and Wildlife Service found that 2.6 million Michigan residents spent \$692.8 million watching, feeding, and photographing wildlife in 2001. You can access the website by visiting the DNR's homepage, www.michigan.gov/dnr.

If you would like to receive future issues of Hammerstrom's Hotline via e-mail,
please contact me at SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov